

February 26, 2020

Dear members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee,

My name is Lillian Maisfehl. I am a resident of Chester CT, and a librarian at Gateway Community College in New Haven, CT. I am writing in support of H.B. no. 5112: *An Act Concerning the Budget of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities*.

Public higher education in the state of Connecticut receives a block grant appropriation, which is crucial to our operations. The Board of Regents of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities receives its own block grant, which totals approximately \$400,000 and covers the salary and benefits of the CSCU president. However, in FY2020, the Board of Regents spent over \$47 million. This spending drains resources from the colleges and universities to benefit an administrative bureaucracy in Hartford that serves no students at all. This despite repeated assurances from Mark Ojakian and the Board of Regents that student-facing services would not be impacted by the Students First consolidation plan. Our students are being deprived of resources and services, *right now*, in the form of funding siphoned from the colleges to the System Office, and in the form of the countless wasted hours spent by faculty and staff at the colleges working to create a governance structure for a theoretical college that may never exist, hours which have largely been in vain, as the BOR has much preferred to use faculty names for the propaganda value than their insight and experience. Further, the BOR's financial shell game evades oversight by the Connecticut legislature and decreases transparency in CSCU spending. If the Board of Regents truly wishes to improve public higher education in the state of Connecticut, **first**, it needs to stop stealing from **students**.

I encourage members of the committee to support H.B. 5112, and increase transparency and accountability in BOR spending.

Respectfully,

Lillian Maisfehl  
Chester, CT